Application/Control Number: 10/609,325

Art Unit: 2821

CImpto

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Cancelled claims 1-85

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86. (added; originally submitted as misnumbered claim 2 in a first preliminary amendment in 09/933,878 on 08/21/2001). A method for managing content in a shared use operating environment, the shared use operating environment including a registration server, a content server connectable by a network link to the registration server, and a client workstation connectable by a client-server network communications link to the content server, the method comprising the steps of:

registering a user at the registration server, thereby characterizing the user as a registered user;

reserving a particular piece of courseware content for a particular registered user;

receiving at the content server a request by the registered user for access to content which contains at least one previously treated critical portion;

authenticating the request;

serving at least the critical portion over the client-server network communications link for presentation to the registered user at the client workstation;

metering usage of the content by the registered user;

monitoring the client-server network communications link;

downloading at least one non-critical portion of the content to the client workstation at least two hours before serving the critical portion;

disabling eaching and other disk writes to prevent a copy of the critical portion of the content from being created on nonvolatile storage at the client workstation; and

presenting the registered user with an invoice for usage of the content.

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87. (added; claims numbered here as 87-106 were originally submitted as misnumbered claims 29-48 in a third preliminary amendment in 09/933.878 on 05/29/2002) A method for managing content in an operating environment that includes peer-to-peer nodes which perform as content servers and/or clients, the method comprising the steps of: registering users;

checking user passwords to prevent unregistered users from receiving content services:

receiving at a node a request by a registered user for access to content which contains at least one previously treated critical portion; and serving at least the critical portion over a network communications link to a peer node for presentation to the registered user.

- 88. (added) The method of claim 87, wherein the serving step serves digital content that contains at least one musical recording.
- 89. (added) The method of claim 87, wherein the serving step serves digital content that contains visual images.
- (added) The method of claim 87, wherein the serving step serves video content.
- 91. (added) The method of claim 87, wherein the method delivers content by synchronous sharing.
- (added) The method of claim 91, wherein the method comprises video conferencing.
- 93. (added) The method of claim 87, wherein the method delivers content in a real-time manner.

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94. (added) The method of claim 87, wherein the method delivers content in an interactive manner.

- 95. (added) The method of claim 87, wherein the critical portion comprises encrypted content.
- (added) The method of claim 87, wherein the critical portion comprises compressed content.
- 97. (added) The method of claim 87, wherein the critical portion comprises licensed content.
- 98. (added) The method of claim 87, wherein the critical portion comprises content that is compressed and encrypted.
- 99. (added) The method of claim 87, further comprising the step of disabling use of at least a portion of the content after an expected security handshake is not received.
- 100. (added) The method of claim 87, further comprising the step of downloading at least a portion of the content to a peer node at least one hour before the serving step.
- 101. (added) The method of claim 87, wherein the method moves content to peer nodes in response to anticipated requests from users.
- 102. (added) The method of claim 87, wherein the method moves content to peer nodes in response to actual requests from users.

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- 103. (added) The method of claim 87, wherein the method operates in conjunction with a license enforcement software program executing on a client node.
- 104. (added) The method of claim 87, wherein the method tracks content use in order to create records on which invoices are at least partially based.
- 105. (added) The method of claim 87, wherein the method tracks content location and determines whether content is already resident on a peer node at or near a location at which content is requested.
- 106. (added) The method of claim 87, wherein only authenticated network users are able to access the content.